

Roald Dahl was born in Wales, in 1916. He was an unhappy schoolboy, so after graduating from school he decided to look for adventure. He first worked for the Shell company in East Africa, where he lived in the jungle, and then he joined the Royal Air Force, or RAF, as a pilot, when the Second World War broke out. He was injured while he was flying, so in 1942 he went to Washington, where he started his career as a writer.

In 1943 Dahl published *The Gremlins*, his first children's book, which was followed by many others. They were all very successful because he really connected with the children's interests. He later admitted he couldn't have written children's stories if he hadn't had children of his own. Actually, his books are based on bedtime stories he made up for his own children.

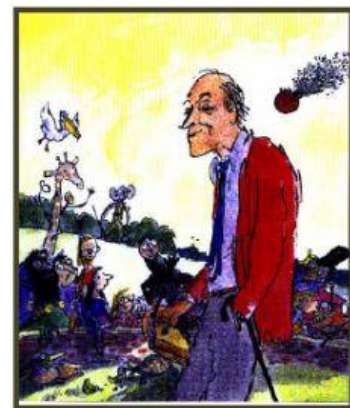
He also wrote books for adults. His adult books are stories that combine humour and a touch of cruelty. They are full of fantasy and imagination, usually with a shocking ending and deceptive intrigues. Nevertheless, Dahl recognised that the ideas for stories didn't just come out: he had to think hard to get them.

As for his family life, he married Patricia Neal, an actress, and they had five children. However, they were not happy. Patricia suffered a stroke but later recovered. Their marriage ended in divorce.

Dahl died in Oxford in 1990. He was a generous man who always donated money to those who needed it. He was awarded several important prizes. His secret for becoming a good writer is a lively imagination and hard work.

1 ARE THESE STATEMENTS TRUE (T) OR FALSE (F)? CORRECT THE FALSE ONES.

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| a) Roald Dahl was born in America in 1916. | T / F |
| b) He was an unhappy schoolboy. | T / F |
| c) Roald Dahl first worked for Shell Company in East Asia. | T / F |
| d) In the Second World War he joined the army as a sailor. | T / F |
| e) His marriage with Patricia Neal ended in divorce. | T / F |
| f) He wasn't a generous man. | T / F |



2 ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:

- Where did Roald Dahl start his career as a writer?
- How is his first children's book called?
- How are his adult books' endings?
- How many children did he have?
- When and where did he die?

